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ABSTRACT

Drawing on the many resources published for young people about the Civil War, this book selects the best books and other resources for teachers to use in the classroom and suggests how to use them effectively. Beginning with a chapter about using literature to study the Civil War, the book moves on to a series of thematic chapters on six broad topics: (1) the United States just before the war; (2) the struggle for freedom; (3) people who made a difference; (4) war experiences; (5) the home front; and (6) rebuilding the nation. Each chapter in the book begins with an introduction to the subject, followed by discussions of fiction and nonfiction "focus books" and shorter descriptions of other books on the topic; each focus book discussion includes an excerpt from the text, an overview of the resource, a summary of its strengths, considerations for teachers, and suggestions for classroom activities. The following chapter titles are included: (1) "Using Literature to Learn About the Civil War"; (2) "A Troubled Land"; (3) "Struggling to be Free"; (4) "Those Who Made a Difference"; (5) "War Experiences"; (6) "On the Homefront"; (7) "Rebuilding the Nation"; and (8) "Resources." The book includes suggested recordings, videotapes, software, Web sites, museums, historical sites, and teaching aids. The appendix contains the National Standards for United States History Era 4: Expansion and Reform (1801-1861) and Era 5: Civil War and Reconstruction (1850-1877). (BT)

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